

COLLEGE OF DUPAGE

Radiation Therapy Program

Advanced Certificate

Fall 2023

Application Deadline:
July 6, 2023 at 5pm

Note: Please see specific program registration or admission packets for detailed information on when to begin completing health requirements, drug tests, CPR, criminal background checks and proof of insurance submission. Timing varies depending upon either entrance to or participation in the clinical component of a given program. Funds paid to Edward Corporate Health or to a personal health care provider/ source, CastleBranch.com, insurance companies, and funds used towards CPR completion are not eligible for any sort of refund from College of DuPage if the required course(s) are not successfully completed.

Note: Students are not accepted into this program until they receive an official acceptance letter from the College of DuPage Nursing & Health Sciences Division.

COLLEGE OF DUPAGE
Health and Sciences Division

425 Fawell Blvd.
Glen Ellyn, IL. 60137-6599
www.cod.edu

PHONE 630 942-8331 FAX 630 942-4222

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the Diagnostic Medical Imaging – Radiation Therapy Technology Program at College of DuPage. This packet of information has been developed to provide you with a complete overview of our program, including the process for admission.

Although the program is considered a one-year certificate program, students must be a graduate of an accredited Radiography or Nuclear Medicine program, possess an associates or higher degree and have completed the general education courses listed on page 6.

We have made every effort to make the information in this packet complete, however, should you have further questions please contact me.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Oldham, M.S.R.S, RT(R)(CT)
Assistant Professor, Radiography Program
Radiation Therapy, Program Chair
oldhamt@cod.edu
(630) 942-2074
HSC 2207C

Program Information Disclaimer

This program information is published for that purpose only; however, the information in this packet is not to be regarded as an irrevocable contract between the student and the program. The program reserves the right to change, at any time, without notice, graduation requirements, fees and other charges, curriculum, course structure and content, and other such matters as may be within its control, notwithstanding any information set forth in this program information packet in accordance with College of DuPage policies and procedures.

Program Mission Statement

The primary goal of the Radiation Therapy Program is to educate students with didactic, laboratory, and clinical experience in preparation for the administration of ionizing radiation to humans for therapeutic purposes. Program policies and procedures have been designed to meet or exceed those established by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists. The graduate will demonstrate competency to meet state licensure, and/or certification application requirements defined by law for radiation therapy, deliver compassionate patient care, and function as an integral member of the health care team with competence and confidence.

Policies and Procedures

All Nursing and Health Science Division policies and procedures are found on our [Division website](#). It is the students' responsibility to ensure they have reviewed and understand the policies and procedures. The Nursing and Health Science Division reserves the right to change, at any time, without notice, these policies and procedures.

Program Admission Preference:

Each program with out-of-district clinical sites (see list of participating programs below) may admit a maximum of 20% of out-of-district applicants to the program, based on merit. The 20% maximum policy would only apply to out-of-district applicants who do **not** have access to a particular program in the **community college district in which they reside**. Students coming from districts with a particular program within their district would only be considered if there were open seats after all qualified candidates from in-district and out-of-district without programs were accepted.

If there are insufficient numbers of qualified in-district applicants, the maximum percentage of out-of-district students accepted can be exceeded until the program achieves full enrollment, with the approval of the Dean of Nursing & Health Sciences.

- Computed Tomography
- Health Information Technology
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technology (MRI)
- Mammography
- Nuclear Medicine (DMIN)
- Nursing (ADN)
- Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA)
- Proton Therapy
- Radiation Therapy
- Radiography (DMIR)
- Respiratory Care
- Sonography (Ultrasound) DMIR
- Speech Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA)
- Surgical Technology

Priority for Admission:

- a. In-District applicants
- b. Out-of-District who are part of the [CAREER Consortium Agreement](#) (meaning your residing community college does not offer the particular program in which you are applying)
- c. Out-of-District applicants working full-time in-district (proof of in-district employment will be required each semester)
- d. Out-of-District applicants (who are not part of the CAREER Consortium Agreement) including those students with a joint or chargeback agreement and International students

Statement on Transfer of Credit

The acceptance of transfer credit from other institutions is at the sole discretion of the Records/Graduation office. Any questions regarding credit should be directed to their office at (630) 942-3838.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ACCEPTANCE

To participate in the clinical education portion of the Program, the applicant must possess additional non-academic skills. These technical standards are consistent with the duties of the entry-level radiographer in a professional position. The applicant should have:

- The ability to transport, move, lift and transfer patients from a wheelchair or stretcher to and from the treatment and/or simulation table.
- The ability to move, adjust, manipulate equipment to perform simulation and therapeutic procedures.
- Sufficient visual acuity to observe patients and equipment operation during treatment, as well as read the patient's radiation reports and medical information. Hearing also must be adequate to perceive and interpret audio signals from equipment, and to respond to patients' questions or concerns.
- The ability to communicate clearly, both orally and in writing, with patients, doctors and other personnel, and the ability to follow written and verbal directions.
- The ability to view computer monitors for extended periods.
- Sufficient problem-solving skills and the ability to perform these skills in a timely manner. Such skills include, but are not limited to, measuring, calculating, analyzing, and evaluating medical and technological information, and synthesizing this information in a way that facilitates troubleshooting problems and/or responding to emergency situations.

PROGRAM GOALS

1. The primary goal of the program is to educate competent, efficient, and effective Radiation Therapists, capable of functioning in any environment, within 12 months.
2. Provide a complete, up-to-date, competency-based curriculum.
3. Educate the student to properly administer therapeutic doses of radiation to patients according to established professional practices.
4. Support the development of a diverse set of skills necessary to participate in both current and emerging technologies in radiation oncology.
5. To promote development of integrative, critical thinking, and written, verbal and computer-based communication skills.
6. Prepare the student to achieve a satisfactory result on the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) credentialing examination for Radiation Therapy and/or individual state licensure examinations. College of DuPage and/or its faculty and staff do not guarantee successful candidate performance on the ARRT Certification exam, as a condition of successful Program completion.
7. Provide accurate student advisement to aid in student retention, course completion, program completion and possible future job placement.
8. Provide opportunities for continuing education for Radiation Therapy Technologists.

Applicants are also advised that the Radiation Therapy Program follows a rigorous curriculum requiring serious student memorization, practical application of theory, and coursework. Taking personal time off (i.e. vacations) outside scheduled breaks is strongly discouraged and may affect program continuation or ability to complete the program as scheduled.

ESTIMATE OF STUDENT FEES

Please visit the [Program Costs webpage](#) for estimated fees.

Estimate does not include provisions for travel to and from school and clinical education site, for textbooks and fees related to general education requirement courses, or for the cost of the required health requirements.

Financial Aid is available; visit the [Financial Aid Office](#) in SSC 2220 or call (630) 942-2251 or (630) 942-2252.

COURSE SEQUENCE – RADIATION THERAPY PROGRAM

SEMESTER 1 (FALL)

RATH 2310	Radiation Therapy Physics
RATH 2321	Cross-sectional Anatomy
RATH 2301	Principles & Practice I
RATH 2331	Clinical Practice I

SEMESTER 2 (SPRING)

RATH 2311	Radiation Biology, and Protection
RATH 2322	Pathophysiology
RATH 2302	Principles & Practice II
RATH 2332	Clinical Practice II

SEMESTER 3 (SUMMER)

RATH 2312	Quality Management
RATH 2323	Operational Issues
RATH 2303	Principles & Practice III
RATH 2333	Clinical Practice III

RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY

Radiology Technology is a general term for a number of allied health professions that use different types of energy to produce diagnostic images and to treat diseases (i.e., Radiography, Nuclear Medicine and Radiation Therapy). The initial Programs at the College of DuPage are in Radiography and Nuclear Medicine. Radiographers (formerly called x-ray technologists) are mainly responsible for taking x-rays (radiographs) and assisting the Diagnostic Radiologist. A Diagnostic Radiologist is a physician with special training in interpreting (reading) x-ray and Nuclear Medicine images. Nuclear Medicine Technologists administer trace amounts of radiopharmaceuticals to a patient to obtain functional information about organs, tissues and bone. This information is obtained by using a special camera to detect gamma rays emitted by the radiopharmaceuticals and create an image of the body part under study. This image is then created on a computer screen or on film.

College of DuPage now offers an advanced certificate program in Radiation Therapy Technology to graduates of an accredited Radiography or Nuclear Medicine Program. Graduates of the Radiation Therapy Technology program will be known formally as Radiation Therapists. Duties of Radiation Therapists may include reviewing prescription and diagnosis; acting as a liaison with the physician and supportive care personnel; preparing equipment, such as immobilization, treatment, and protection devices; and maintaining records, reports, and files. They may also assist in dosimetry procedures and tumor localization. Radiation Therapists administer targeted doses of radiation to the patient's body to treat cancer and other diseases. As the radiation strikes human tissue, it produces highly energized ions that gradually shrink and destroy the nucleus of malignant tumor cells. Radiation Therapists are highly skilled medical specialists educated in physics, radiation safety, patient anatomy and patient care. They typically see their patients three to five days a week throughout a four-to seven-week treatment plan.

Radiation Therapists work closely with two other medical specialists, namely Medical Dosimetrists and Radiation Oncologists. Medical Dosimetrists determine how much radiation will be delivered to a tumor site. Under the supervision of a medical physicist, they calculate and generate radiation dose distributions in accordance with the Radiation Oncologists' treatment plan. Radiation Oncologists are radiologists who specialize in the treatment of cancer with radiation. They consult with the patient's primary care physician to determine the best course of therapy and plan a treatment. Then, they work with a medical dosimetrist to calculate how much radiation will be delivered.

According to the *Radiologic Technologist Wage and Salary Survey – 2016*, conducted by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists, full-time salaries nationwide for Radiation Therapists averaged \$82,798, with a range reported of between \$75,518 and \$154,000. In Illinois, the full-time salary averaged \$82,749. As with most other professions, the length of time in the profession increased the salary that was paid.

As for the job market, the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, projects faster than average employment change until at least the year 2024.

If you want further information on the profession, consult one of the following websites:

- www.acert.org
- www.arrt.org
- www.asrt.org
- www.issrt.org

THE COLLEGE OF DUPAGE RADIATION THERAPY PROGRAM

College of DuPage Diagnostic Medical Imaging – Radiation Therapy Program provides a complete scholastic and clinical education for a career in Radiation Therapy. The program is a 12-month post-radiography or nuclear medicine certificate program. Matriculating students must be graduates of an accredited radiography or nuclear medicine program. Students enrolled in the Program attend full-time beginning with the Fall semester with clinical experience on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays (full eight-hour days) and didactic class work at the College of DuPage main campus on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Students attend classes at the College and receive clinical experience at an affiliated medical facility. Students must provide their own transportation to and from the College and to their assigned clinical site. Clinical hours vary, but most students are done by 4:30 p.m.; check with the clinical site of your choice for specific times. Working students should not take jobs that will interfere with these hours.

The program curriculum incorporates the national radiation therapy curriculum established by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT). The curriculum includes all didactic and clinical competencies required for eligibility for the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) national certification examination. Before a student enrolled in the College of DuPage Radiation Therapy Technology program can be deemed eligible to apply for ARRT certification, he or she must fulfill the following requirements:

- The student must have completed the academic requirements of the Program successfully.
- The student must have all fees and other Program charges paid in full.
- The student must return all College of DuPage and clinical site property in their possession, or else remit payment(s) for lost, stolen or damaged property.

Upon passing the examination, the student will be certified in all states. Students must also be licensed in some states including Illinois.

Admissions Checklist

The Program can admit only a limited number of students. A selection process has been established to admit the most qualified students. Each step in the process is outlined here in detail. All steps must be completed if applicable to be considered for admission to the Program.

Along with the above requirements, you **must** follow **and** complete the admission checklist that is provided to be considered for acceptance and have acceptable interpersonal skills for the profession. You are reminded that the Radiation Therapy Technology Program has a limited enrollment (approximately 12 - 20 students based on clinical site availability) and an early admission deadline.

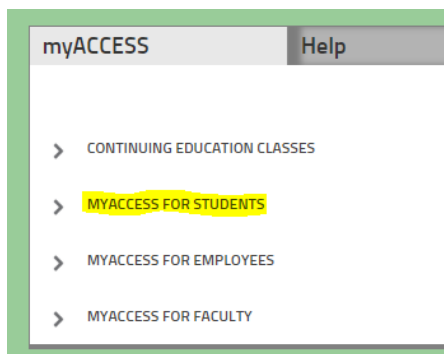
NOTE: Admission Committees for all Health Science programs have the right to deny admission to any applicant that they feel is unable to fulfill the essential functions as described in this packet. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all material listed below have been completed and received by the designated office, by 5 pm on July 6, 2023.

This is a list of what you must do to be admitted to the Program. You should mark each item as you complete it to ensure that none of the steps are missed.

- _____ 1. Attend a highly recommended Radiation Therapy Individual Advising Session to learn about the program and application requirements with Thomas Oldham, Program Chair at oldhamt@cod.edu
- _____ 2. If you have not been admitted to College of DuPage, please complete the **non-refundable** \$20 [College of DuPage General Admissions Application](#) online. **This application is for general admissions to College of DuPage only; it is not an application to the Health Sciences Limited Enrollment Radiation Therapy program.**
- _____ 3. To ensure that all of your eligible credits are evaluated towards the admission requirements, turn in **ALL** official Transcripts from institutions that you have attended. Immediately:
 - a. Submit your official transcript(s) to **College of DuPage, Office of Student Records**. *If College of DuPage is the only institution you have attended, you do not need to request official transcripts.*
 - b. Verify receipt of your transcript(s). Log into myACCESS account, click on 'myACCESS for Students', select 'My Profile'. The receipt status of your transcript will be listed under 'Transcript Institutions'.

NOTE: If you have an international transcript from high school or college, it must first be evaluated. Please visit the following website https://www.cod.edu/regISTRATION/records/trans_eval_listing.aspx for details.

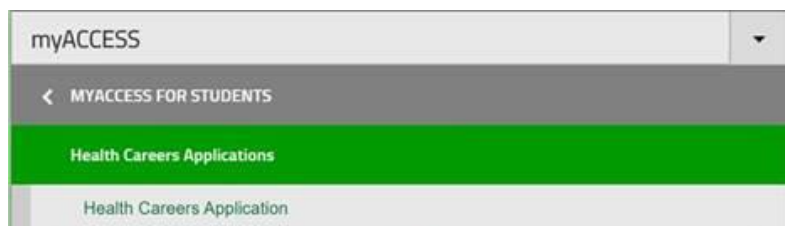
- _____ 4. Complete the **non-refundable** \$50 [Health Career Selective Enrollment Program Application](#) online by logging into the student portal at <https://inside.cod.edu>
 - Click on myACCESS for Students



- Click on the Health Careers Applications link



- Select Health Careers Application



- Select **Radiation Therapy Certificate** when asked “What selective enrollment program are you applying to?”

Once the application is submitted, you may not change the term or program. If you do not have a credit card, you can purchase a prepaid credit card from your local retailer

_____ 5. Complete the [College of DuPage Residency Verification form](#) and provide proof of residency to the **Office of Student Registration Services, Student Services Center (SSC) Room 2221** or e-mailing to registration@cod.edu by the program application deadline date.

Note:

- **If this residency requirement has not been submitted to Registration by the program application deadline date, you will not be considered for admission.**
- **Separate Residency Verification Forms must be submitted for each program application.**

_____ 6. Contact a Clinical Instructor (see list on page 15) and arrange a FORMAL VISIT at a clinical site that would be your preference for placement.

_____ 8. Submit official transcripts to the **Office of Student Records** showing proof graduation from an accredited Radiography or Nuclear Medicine program and completed an AAS degree or higher. Refer to Step #3 for verification of receipt process.

_____ 9. Successful completion of Anatomy & Physiology (A&P 1500 or 1551 or 1571) or equivalent **prior** to admission.

_____ 10. Successful completion of the following General Education courses: Math 1100 or higher level, English 1101 and 1102, Speech 1100 or 1120, or 1150, Social/Behavioral Science (at least 3 semester hours), Humanities (at least 3 semester hours), and HLTHS 1110 or equivalent (biomedical terminology).

- _____ 11. Receive a minimum of 15 points on the Merit Evaluation (see page 12). Note: 15 points does not guarantee admission into the program. You also must be accepted by the clinical site regardless of your merit score.
- _____ 12. Possibly meet with the Program Admission Committee.

“All application documents delivered to the College of DuPage pertaining to a health sciences admissions file become the property of the College of DuPage and will not be returned to applicants. This includes but is not limited to transcripts, letters of recommendation, clinical evaluation forms or outside test reports.”

MERIT EVALUATION

For your reference only; admissions committee completes this form. Do not fill out and submit

Radiation Therapy

Name _____

Date _____

Clinical Interview _____ **Yes** _____ **No**

College Courses (Scale A)

Biology _____
A & P _____
Other Science _____
Health/Tech Math _____
Other Math _____
English I _____
English II _____
Speech _____
Humanities _____
Behavioral Science _____

Medical Term. _____

Radiography Courses (Scale A)

Patient Care _____
Exposure/Equipment _____
Image Production _____
Radiation Protection _____
Principles/Procedures _____
Nuclear Medicine Courses (Scale A)
Radiation Protection _____
Radionuclides _____
Instrumentation/QC _____
Procedures _____
Patient Care _____

Subtotal _____
CI Interview _____
Merit Score _____

Scale A

Grade A = 4 pts
Grade B = 3 pts
Grade C = 2 pts
Grade D = 1 pt
Grade F = 0 pts

Clinical Interview Scale

256 to 275 = 4
237 to 255 = 3
214 to 236 = 2
206 to 213 = 1
0 to 205 = 0

REQUIREMENTS AFTER ACCEPTANCE

Statement of Health

Students admitted to Health Career programs must complete the necessary [Health Requirements](#), certifying that their health status will allow them to safely pursue the education objectives of the Radiation Therapy program. The requirements include a criminal background check, drug screen, Edward Corporate Health Clearance, and completion of the Medical Document Manager piece provided through [CastleBranch.com](#). **Please do not complete the Clinical Requirements until you are instructed to do so.** The Health Requirements Packet may be downloaded at [Health Requirements](#).

PLEASE NOTE if you have been found guilty of a felony, you may have difficulty obtaining a license and/or becoming registered to practice in this profession.

HOW ACCEPTANCE IS DETERMINED

Both the total Merit Evaluation points earned and the applicant's interpersonal skills determine acceptance. **Please Note: Courses under 1100 or 100 level will not be counted in the merit evaluation.** Applicants with the highest point totals are those accepted according to rank. You also must be accepted by the clinical site regardless of your merit score.

Priority for Admission:

- a. In-District applicants
- b. Out-of-District who are part of the [CAREER Consortium Agreement](#) (meaning your residing community college does not offer the particular program in which you are applying)
- c. Out-of-District applicants working full-time in-district (proof of in-district employment will be required each semester)
- d. Out-of-District applicants (who are not part of the CAREER Consortium Agreement) including those students with a joint or chargeback agreement and International students

The Deadline for Applications is July 7, 2021 by 5pm

The Admissions Committee meets in mid- July. Around the last week of July, the Acceptance letters are mailed. These include the student's hospital assignment and an accept-or-reject letter. The accept-or-reject letter must be returned by a specific date. If not, we will place students from the waiting list. Students from the waiting list will continue to be placed until the Program start date or until the list is exhausted.

Requests for admission are **not** automatically carried over to the following year. Applicants who were not accepted for the cycle in which they originally applied are asked to pay the \$50 non-refundable Health Science application fee and submit any/all supporting documents as listed on the Admissions Checklist of the Application Packet requirements (if applicable). Transcripts of any additional coursework must also be submitted to the Records Office. Students who have applied previously are not given preference for readmission, but a high multiplier is used on the merit evaluation form for those who were qualified but not admitted in a previous year. NOTE: Students re-applying are advised to contact a Radiation Therapy program faculty member to review their file to see if they can improve their Merit Evaluation score in any way.

Some of these questions may be asked of you during your Formal Visit or Group Advising Sessions:

1. Tell me about yourself.
2. Which of your characteristics would you most like to change?
3. What are your most valuable characteristics?
4. What high school or college classes did you like the most? The least? Why?
5. What experience have you had in dealing with the public?
6. Working in a Radiation Therapy Department and in a hospital requires a team effort. Do you consider yourself a team player?
7. How did you become interested in Radiation Therapy?
8. Who influenced you most in your career choice? How? Why?
9. Who do you feel is the most important person in a hospital and why?
10. What qualities do you think a good health professional should possess?
11. Give an example of a recent high stress situation that you were in? How did you react?
12. What types of medical situations have you been exposed to?
13. What will you do to learn how to cope with medical emergencies?
14. What type of patient contact would you like in your job?
15. What are your long-term career goals? Where do you see yourself in five years from now?
16. What will you do if you are unable to enter the Program this year?

TENTATIVE CLINICAL AFFILIATES*

<p>AMITA Health Cancer Institute & Out Patient Center 1 Salt Creek Lane Hinsdale, IL 60521 Not taking students in 2022 630.286.5500 Jeffrey Levinson, RT(T) jeffrey.levinson@ascension.org</p>	<p>Edward Hospital 801 S. Washington Naperville, IL 60566 (630) 646-6154 Stacey Webster, RT(T) Stacey.Webster@EEHealth.org Jenna Stobbe Jenna.Stobbe@EEHealth.org</p>
<p>AMITA Health Resurrection Medical Center 7435 West Talcott Avenue Chicago, IL 60631 (773) 990-8533 Debra Dowz, RT (T) Debra.Dowz@ascension.org</p>	<p>Elmhurst Memorial Hospital 177 E. Brush Hill Road Elmhurst, IL 60126 (331) 221-5900 Stacey Webster, RT (T) Stacey.Webster@EEHealth.org Jenna Stobbe Jenna.Stobbe@EEHealth.org</p>
<p>Alpha Med Physicians Group 17333 S. LaGrange Rd., Suite 100 Tinley Park, IL 60487 (708) 448-9393 Anne Poirot, RT(T) Anne.Poirot@alphamedphysicians.com</p>	<p>Northwestern Medicine Cancer Center Warrenville 4405 Weaver Parkway Warrenville, IL 60555 (630) 352-5450 Joshua Lardi, RT(T) Joshua.Lardi@nm.org</p>
<p>American Cancer Center 2320 Huntington Drive, N. Algonquin, IL 60102 (847) 695-3555 Nibu Philips, R.T. (T) philipsnibu@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Northwestern Medicine Cancer Center Delnor 304 Randall Rd. Geneva, IL 60134 (630) 262-8554 Brian Pientak, RT(T) Brian.Pientak@nm.org</p>
<p>Duly Health and Care 430 Warrenville Rd, Suite 100 Lisle, IL 60532 (630) 432-6745 Lucie Zegadlo-Rodriguez, RT(T) Lucie.Zegadlo-Rodriguez@dulyhealthandcare.com</p>	<p>Illinois Central College Students UnityPoint Health - Methodist 221 NE Glen Oak Avenue Peoria, IL 61636 (309) 672 – 5522 Tom K. Olson, RT (T) Tom.Olson@unitypoint.org</p>
<p>Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee 10 Health Services Drive, Suite 2 DeKalb, IL 60115 (815) 756-4722 Amy McGough, RT (T) amy.mcgough@nm.org</p>	<p>Sauk Valley Community College Students Director Leonard C. Ferguson Cancer Center FHN 1163 West Stephenson Street Freeport, IL 61032 (815) 599-7042 Julie Nampel MSN, RN jnampel@fhn.org</p>
<p>Advocate Christ Medical Center 4440 W. 95th St. Oak Lawn, IL 60453 (708) 684-5475 Brian Green, RT (R)(T) brian.green@advocatehealth.com</p>	<p>Sauk Valley Community College Students Northern Illinois Cancer Treatment Center 327 IL Route 2 Dixon, IL 61021 (815) 284-1111 Jon Berens iberens@nicancer.com</p>
<p>Advocate Condell Medical Center 801 S. Milwaukee, Building 880 Libertyville, IL 60048 (847) 990-5910 Amanda Hetzel, RT (T) Amanda.Hetzel2@aah.org</p>	

*As of the writing of this packet, these clinical sites have expressed an interest in hosting students but the contracts have yet to be finalized. In addition, we are currently soliciting new sites that are not yet on this list. Please contact the program director for the most recent list of sites.